

5-MILE GAIN IN FRENCH DRIVE

FINAL
EDITION

The

Evening

World.

FINAL
EDITION

WEATHER—Showers To-Night.

"Circulation Books Open to All."

"Circulation Books Open to All."

PRICE ONE CENT.

Copyright, 1917, by The Press Publishing Co. (The New York World).

NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 1917.

18 PAGES

PRICE ONE CENT.

BIG GUNS IN ACTION OFF CAPE COD WILSON PUSHES CONSCRIPTION BILL

ARMY OF THE CROWN PRINCE LOSES IN THREE ATTACKS TO REGAIN LOST GROUND

Great Drives of the French and British Frustrate Hindenburg's Plan to Strike at Calais and Against Russians—New Gains by Haig.

PARIS, April 18.—Important progress was made last night by the French in their attack east of Soissons. The War Office announces the capture of Chavonne and Chivy. The French pushed on north of these points, reaching the vicinity of Bray-en-Laonnois.

[Bray-en-Laonnois is five miles from Chavonne, indicating an advance of that distance toward Laon, which the French are attempting to encircle by the drive between Soissons and Rheims. The great French drive yesterday on an eighteen-mile front against the German Crown Prince was east of Rheims in the Champagne region.]

The Germans made three desperate counter-attacks in the Champagne last night. They were checked by the French, who inflicted heavy losses on the attacking troops. Since Monday the French have captured upward of 14,000 unwounded Germans. In the Champagne large numbers of machine guns and trench mortars have been captured, and also twelve cannon, including three of large calibre.

According to information from a reliable source the double offensive of the British north of Arras and of the French on the Aisne disarranged the German plans. Field Marshal von Hindenburg, it is declared, was preparing an offensive against Riga and another against Italy, while on the western front he was considering an attempt on Calais on the one hand and on Paris on the other.

The Allied western offensive spoiled all this by obliging him to bring back a large part of the effective intended for the Russian and Italian fronts.

THE FRENCH OFFICIAL REPORT SHOWS BIG SUCCESSES.

Following is the text of to-day's report from the War Office:

"In the region to the south of St. Quentin last night was characterized by great activity on the part of the opposing artillery forces, together with numerous encounters between patrols. Similar conditions prevailed south of the Oise, in the sector to the east of the lower forest of Courcy.

"Northeast of Soissons a surprise attack upon the enemy lines north of Laffaux resulted in our bringing back about twenty prisoners.

"Between Soissons and Aubervilliers French troops last night conducted at various points of the front operations which brought us distinct advantages. A particularly brilliant movement resulted in our occupying the village of Chevonne and in completing the occupation of the village of Chivy. To the north of these localities we have taken possession of ground as far as the suburbs of Bray-en-Laonnois. Our patrols have gone into this village. We took 220 prisoners.

"In the Champagne district

GERMAN MINISTRY BOWS TO DEMAND OF 250,000 STRIKERS

Will Improve Food Situation and Give Representation on Distribution.

BERLIN (via London) April 18.—Promises by the Government to improve the food situation and to include workmen in the membership of a commission on distribution of supplies were expected to improve Germany's general strike situation to-day.

A census taken late last night showed about 250,000 workmen participating in the strike. The Government leaders claimed many of these had decided to resume work to-day.

THE HAGUE, April 18.—A message from Berlin says that more than 125,000 workers are now on strike in Berlin. The Tageblatt declares a number of these are munitions workers.

Leaflets urging peace are being distributed. A message from Copenhagen says the National Tidende's Berlin correspondent wires that most of the ammunition factories in Germany have been affected by the strike.

It is freely predicted that Sunday will see great demonstrations from the laboring people under the pressure of a protest against diminished food rations.

LONDON, April 18.—A Berlin despatch to the Politiken of Copenhagen, as forwarded to the Exchange Telegraph Company, says that work has been resumed in most of the Berlin factories.

According to the Times this morning, Maximilian Harden is now preaching the doctrine that Germany's best hope of saving the situation is to hasten constitutional reforms. If she did that, he suggests that peace negotiations might begin this year by both sides abandoning their faith in the possibility of a military decision of the war.

In the current number of Die Zukunft he declares and enlarges on all these subjects and permits himself to make fun of the Kaiser's Easter rescript.

But the most interesting parts of the articles are those in which Harden indicates that the general outlook, unless Germany can be saved by concession to democracy, is as bleak as can be. He disposes of the idea that Germany can profit from the Russian revolution, and says:

"Hardly English, the advanced troops of the British and the Russians in contact on the frontier of Persia, wide areas of the soil of France once more in the possession of the republic, China's revolt from Germany, the success of the British at Arras, a new community with 100,000,000 Americans who desire for themselves neither land nor money nor even repayment of the cost of the war, and who, with their ideal solution work upon the nerves of all mankind, confident in the hope of Central America and South America—in these circumstances it is possible for any sober man who does not want to blush before our warriors to say in his madness that the results of these three months have wearied our enemies, and set them whimpering for feeble peace?"

"Our fate depends, not on bits of territory which European States can no longer take away from one another and can no longer hold to their own permanent advantage, but upon the acquisition of higher spiritual values. Elevate the conscience of mankind and light up the German house also! Then what the enemy demands too loudly, but what we in secret feel to be a necessity, will come to pass. The will of the people will be free and Germany will know for what the dearest children of her bosom are dying and suffering!"

WILSON AT CAPITOL TO PUSH ARMY BILL; ASSERTS DRAFT PLAN MUST BE ADOPTED

500,000 Men in Camp by August if Conscription Bill Is Passed.

Samuel M. Williams.
(Special Staff Correspondent of The Evening World.)

WASHINGTON, April 18.—President Wilson went to the Capitol to-day to push the compulsory service military bill now before the Senate. He first lined up the Senators of his own party opposed to conscription.

There is a revolt in both Senate and House against the Administration plan, a revolt strongest in the South and Middle West. President Wilson took his leaders into his room and labored with them long and earnestly, pointing to the failure of the volunteer system. While this was going on the Senate Military Affairs Committee was called together to hurry out a report so that the Senate could get into action on it this afternoon. But even in the committee there was radical difference of opinion. The final vote stood 10 to 7 in favor of the conscription bill.

The seven in opposition heatedly declared they would make a minority report and fight out the battle on the floor of the Senate. They consisted of Senators Reed, Missouri; McKellar, Tennessee; Kirby, Arkansas; Hitchcock, Nebraska; Thomas, Colorado; all Democrats and New, Indiana and Sutherland, West Virginia, Republicans.

SAYS COUNTRY WILL RESPOND TO CALL.

Speaking for the minority, Senator Reed said:

"We demand the volunteer system instead of compulsory service. The country will respond to a call. The Nation will be better defended by men whose heart and soul are freely given to it. There is the difference between going to war with his mother's blessing and a brute with a bayonet dragging him out of her arms."

"The military autocracy of the regular army is attempting to set up its control over this country."

The minority report will favor an amendment offered by Senator McKellar, calling for volunteers before conscription is ordered.

At the War Department recruiting figures for the regular army were given out showing that on yesterday the volunteers numbered 2,422. New York State contributed only 127. New Jersey, thirty-nine and Connecticut, fourteen in the one day. The Middle West showed up stronger than the East.

Opponents of Selective Conscription Plan to-day got the upper hand in the House Military Committee, which voted twelve to eight to have the new Army Bill carry a provision to first try to raise the new force by volunteers.

VOTE THROWS SITUATION INTO CONFUSION.

The vote in the House Committee threw the situation into confusion. The opponents of a straight conscription plan immediately began to draft amendments in the hope of getting the conscription element to join in a united vote.

Chairman Dent and Representative Field, Shallenberger, Anthony, Caldwell and Hull of Iowa con-

BRITISH COMMONS HAILES U. S. IN WAR WITH BIG ACCLAIM

"Turning Point," Says Law—"Most Disinterested Act in History," Declares Asquith.

LONDON, April 18.—In the House of Commons to-day unanimous approval was given amid cheers to the resolution moved by Andrew Bonar Law, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and seconded by former Premier Asquith expressing appreciation of the action of the United States in joining the allied powers in war upon Germany.

In moving in the Commons this resolution, identical with one moved in the House of Lords, Mr. Bonar Law said:

"We deeply regret that the Premier is unable to be present himself to move the resolution. Not only the members of Parliament but all the people of the British Empire and the allied countries welcome the new ally with heartfelt sympathy."

"This is not only the greatest event but, as I believe, the turning point of the war. The new world has been brought in, or has stepped in, to restore the balance in the old."

"Being in, the United States has already shown that her enemies must beware of her and despite the fact that the path immediately before us is more difficult than ever before I venture to express the hope and belief that a change is coming—that the long night of sorrow and anguish which has desolated the world is drawing to a close."

Seconding Mr. Bonar Law's resolution, ex-Premier Asquith said:

"I doubt whether even now the world realizes the full significance of the step America has taken. I do not use language of flattery or exaggeration when I say it is one of the most disinterested acts in history."

"For more than one hundred years it has been the cardinal principle of American policy to keep clear of foreign entanglements. A war such as this must necessarily dislocate international commerce and finance, but on the balance it was doing little appreciable harm to the material fortunes and prosperity of the American people."

John Dillon extended greetings to the United States in the name of the Irish Nationalists.

"The Nationalists join most heartily in the welcome to the United States," Mr. Dillon said. "The full meaning of the entry of America into the struggle is difficult to describe. It is not like the entrance of the other Allies, but has a more mighty significance to the whole civilized world."

"President Wilson's speeches to Congress are documents that will go down in history among the noblest utterances of the world's statesmen. The difficulties with which Mr. Wilson has been confronted in the last two and a half years have not been sufficiently appreciated in this country."

"When the banner of the United States was unfurled every man of Irish blood in the United States was a loyal supporter of the President. I venture to prophesy that when the roll is called for battle the Irish will be there (applause). They will outnumber, in proportion to their population, all other races among the soldiers of the republic."

"The presence of the United States at the peace conference is a sign of hope and an assurance of liberty. Her voice will be heard when the settlement comes, and Ireland knows that on that day she will have a firm and sure friend who will not desert Ireland. To America will fall the blessed task of having peace upon liberty."

FIRING AT SEA REPORTED BY COAST GUARD STATIONS AT THREE POINTS ON CAPE

Two Heard Thirty Shots Apparently Just Outside Massachusetts Bay—Battle Probably in Progress, Say Naval Officials.

NAVY DEPARTMENT GIVES OUT DETAILS OF FIRING

BOSTON, April 18.—Three Coast Guard stations, at Race Point, Peaked Hill Bar and High Head, reported that they heard heavy guns being fired at 9.41 A. M. to-day north of the stations in quick succession. These stations are off Provincetown.

Naval officials here explained that the firing probably indicated that a naval engagement was in progress. The firing apparently came from a point just outside of Massachusetts Bay, at the end of Cape Cod. The reports to the navy yard did not state that any vessels had been sighted.

Stations 32 and 67 reported that at 9.15 A. M. they heard north from the stations about fifteen guns and after fifteen minute interval fifteen more were heard.

Stations 33 and 68 at 9.30 reported five or six heavy guns and at 10.20 several more in rapid succession. The general direction was north.

Stations 34 and 70 reported three guns in quick succession and firing at intervals thereafter. The general direction was northeast to north of the station.

Naval authorities announced at 2.30 o'clock this afternoon that no further reports on the firing off the coast had been received from Coast Guard stations or ships at sea.

PROVINCETOWN, Mass., April 18.—The regularity of the firing off the tip of Cape Cod to-day led to the suggestion that it might have been an exchange of salutes by naval vessels, although it was stated that vessels on active war duty are not permitted to thus reveal their positions.

WASHINGTON, April 18.—The Navy Department shortly before noon to-day received an official report from Boston saying gun firing had been heard off Provincetown this morning.

The Navy Department gave out the following in connection with the report:

"Coast Guard stations along Cape Cod reported this morning to the district commander at Boston having heard firing of heavy guns in rapid succession at sea and to northward of the station. The reports came in quick succession and were heard at 9.41 this morning."

"Each of the three stations transmitted this report to the officers in charge of the district."

GERMANY'S ALLIES SAID TO BE ANGLING FOR PEACE

London Hears They Are Seeking Separate Agreements Through Secret Emissaries.

LONDON, April 18.—Reports persisted here to-day that Austria, Bulgaria and Turkey were all angling for separate peace agreements with the Entente through secret emissaries. The move was said to centre in Switzerland.

(Continued on Second Page.)

LODGE RAPS CENSORSHIP CLAUDE IN SPY BILL

Declares It Arms Administration With Power to Suppress Freedom of Press.

WASHINGTON, April 18.—Declaring "it arms the Administration with dangerous powers to suppress the freedom of the press," Senator Lodge in Senate debate to-day bitterly attacked the pending espionage bill—particularly the newspaper censorship provision.

Lodge defended "free comment and just criticism" and said only news "of value to the enemy" should be suppressed.

The Bureau of Public Information—newly created to disseminate Government news—also came in for opposition by Lodge, who said it was dangerous "to place in the hands of those most likely to receive criticism the power to suppress it."

FRIDAY U. S. DAY IN ENGLAND.

Set Aside for Celebration—Call to Fly the Stars and Stripes.

LONDON, April 18.—The Government to-day gave instructions, Sir Alfred Mond told the House of Commons to-day, that on Friday, when America's entrance into the war is to be celebrated, the Stars and Stripes should be flown beside the Union Jack on as many public buildings as possible.

WHEAT AT \$2.34 AGAIN.

Makes Spectacular Advance After Opening at \$2.21.

CHICAGO, April 18.—Wheat staged a spectacular recovery to-day after opening below yesterday's close. May opened at \$2.21 and sold at \$2.31 later, advance of 10 cents. July advanced 13.8 to \$1.92.35, while September futures remained stationary.

Lower advances were recovered in corn and oats.

THE WORLD TRAVEL BUREAU
Agents: Central Travel Building, 30 City Park Bldg., N. Y. City.
Ticket, operations, sailings, etc., via all the world's coastwise, Central and South American steamship lines. Baggage and parcel check room open day or night. "Strangers' clinics" and money orders for sale. Telephone Westman 4600, Adams.

(Continued on Second Page.)